



**ROAD COMMISSION**

1107 S. Milwaukee Ave.  
P.O. Box 519  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

(906) 774-1588  
FAX (906) 774-7227

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April 11, 21011

The Honorable Tom Casperson  
The Honorable Ed McBroom

Re: SB 168 and HB 4303

Dear Senator Casperson and Representative McBroom:

The Dickinson County Road Commission supports your efforts, with Senate Bill 168 and House Bill 4303, to less the burden on governmental agencies as a result of having to mitigate wetland impacts that occur while working within our right of way. The Dickinson County Road Commission spent considerable time and money on the mitigation of wetland impacts, from the 1990's to 2004. Approximately \$300,000 was spent mitigating the impacts on eleven Road Commission projects. The Road Commission constructed 3 mitigation sites during that time period at a cost of \$488,000. Two of those mitigation site projects were joint efforts, one with MDOT and one with the City of Norway, for wetland impacts on their projects.

Besides the monies spent on the mitigation, a considerable amount of time was spent surveying, designing, permitting, constructing and monitoring these sites, which could have been better spent on road related issues, to make them safer for vehicular traffic.

If you have any question with regard to this matter, or need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

David M. Pajula  
County Highway Engineer  
Dickinson County Road Commission

DMP/dmp

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Dickinson County Road Commission has constructed approximately 23.3 acres of wetlands at 3 sites to mitigate impacts from numerous projects since the early to mid 1990's. One site was a joint venture with MDOT and one with the City of Norway. The attached list shows some of the projects, the total cost of the projects, and an approximate cost for the wetland mitigation for each of these projects. Of the 11 projects 8 did not involve Federal aid.

Also attached are photos of each site and a partial design drawing of the Wells Grade Mitigation site. The last attachment shows the wetland areas (colored area) in Dickinson County and portions of the surrounding counties. According to The Natural Resources Conservation Service web site, Michigan has 34,074,500 acres of non-federal land and 7,069,000 acres of that is wetland. There is approximately 3,274,700 acres of federal land.

The 3 mitigation sites are listed, with the total acreage at each site and the cost to construct each site. These costs include preliminary engineering, construction engineering, materials, and labor & equipment. The Road Commission could not afford to have consultants design the projects, or have a contractor construct the sites, so it is all done with our own manpower. There was a combined 5 to 6 months of time spent on these projects, engineering and constructing the wetlands, with a good portion of our total work force.

There continues to be costs associated with the twice yearly monitoring of the development of the wetlands. When the monitoring is completed (5 to 6 years after completion of construction) the DEQ will evaluate the sites. If the sites are not functioning properly, there could be additional costs to correct deficiencies at the sites.

David M. Pajula, P.E.  
County Highway Engineer  
Dickinson County Road Commission

PROJECT COSTS VS MITIGATION COSTS  
DICKINSON COUNTY

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>TOTAL PROJECT COST</u>	<u>MITIGATION COST</u>
County Road 426 (1992)	\$930,000	\$96,100
Swede Settlement Road	\$243,400	\$9,980
Fordville Road	\$278,000	\$8,700
Vanderbink Road	\$22,300	\$2,700
Leeman Road	\$283,000	\$73,000
County Road 426 (1996)	\$385,000	\$17,300
County Road 426 (1999)	\$354,800	\$24,000
Lake Louise Drive	\$442,700	\$12,000
Boundary Line Road	\$121,000	\$12,200
Hupps Road	\$214,500	\$12,700
Oakes Road	\$154,500	\$28,700
		<u>\$297,380</u>

We have built three mitigation sites:

Waucedah-Foster City Site	10.5 acres	\$256,000
Wells Grade Site	8.4 acres	\$161,422
Norway Site	4.4 acres	<u>\$71,388</u>
		\$488,810

FAX 906 774 7227

## Wetland Trends in Michigan

Appendix I: Approximate 1980 Wetland Acreage for each Michigan County.

COUNTY  
TOTAL  
ACREAGE

COUNTY  
TOTAL  
WETLAND  
ACRES  
%  
WETLAND  
IN  
COUNTY  
(UP)

MODERN WETLAND ACREAGE BY CATEGORY FOR EACH REGION					
COUNTY	Lowland Hardwoods	Lowland Conifers	Shrub Swamp	Emergent Wetland	Total
ALGER	14,694	69,584	18,687	2,946	105,911
BARAGA*	25,471	50,522	26,368	4,549	106,910
CHIPPEWA	38,509	109,715	41,756	45,074	235,054
DELTA	56,414	133,594	40,128	13,221	243,357
DICKINSON	20,659	80,192	22,146	4,010	127,007
GOGEBIC	74,064	88,139	26,011	4,187	192,401
HOUGHTON	54,001	27,372	12,657	7,622	101,652
IRON	4,330	80,632	53,923	7,933	146,818
KEWEENAW	7,820	40,920	19,474	4,418	72,632
LUCE	50,389	131,029	59,909	28,231	269,558
MACKINAC	49,337	106,975	29,162	4,967	190,441
MARQUETTE	35,154	147,454	60,874	22,485	265,967
MENOMINEE	55,942	139,292	30,848	5,729	231,811
ONTONAGON*	17,270	10,863	8,799	1,640	38,573
SCHOOLCRAFT	39,885	122,945	70,649	97,132	330,611
Region 1 Total	543,939	1,339,227	521,392	254,144	2,658,702

\*total acreage adjusted with soils data

## REGION 2

COUNTY	Lowland Hardwoods	Lowland Conifers	Shrub Swamp	Emergent Wetland	Total
ALCONA	32,734	38,770	14,104	2,273	87,881
ALPENA	73,150	63,165	22,324	4,888	163,527
ANTRIM	11,600	10,811	3,439	1,000	26,850
ARENAC	63,811	612	5,388	3,989	73,800
BAY	34,453	-	2,211	3,390	40,054
BENZIE	17,721	5,810	5,937	2,146	31,614
CHARLEVOIX	26,425	19,980	7,098	1,232	54,735
CHEBOYGAN	53,925	40,958	15,899	3,814	114,596
CLARE	35,685	10,860	15,617	2,242	64,404
CRAWFORD	8,542	16,141	7,200	1,281	33,164
EMMET	23,104	16,168	6,150	1,485	46,907
GLADWIN	64,220	2,518	17,874	3,492	88,104
GRAND TRAVERSE	15,183	7,423	3,871	1,932	28,409
HURON	40,614	155	3,303	4,165	48,237
IOSCO	36,940	18,150	13,840	4,615	73,545
ISABELLA	17,239	4,758	5,249	2,433	29,679
KALKASKA	18,053	10,224	5,096	1,837	35,210